



**Office for Social Concerns
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio**

Pocket Prayer Patch for Veterans

The idea for a pocket prayer patch is to create a small knitted or crocheted patch of red, white, and blue with a gold outline that is no more than 2.25 to 2.5 inches across. The patch can be round, square, or rectangular. (We are working on a heart-shaped version.)

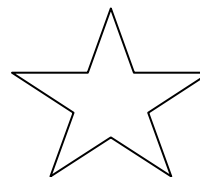
Please note: Knitters and crocheters of all ages can participate in this project. Our contributors include anyone from 7th and 8th graders to octogenarians. If the round patches seem more like coasters than patches (almost anything over 2 1/2 inches), they can be folded in half and become a banner-shaped patch. No patch needs to be left behind!

The Catholic Diocese of Columbus (Ohio) diocesan Office for Social Concerns attaches American flags or St. Michael or St. George medals to the finished patches – you may want to add your own touch with peace signs, angels, etc.

The completed patches can be given to the local veterans' clinic or veterans groups in your area. Be creative on how to get these prayer patches to the veterans. Example: patches have been presented to troops at "Call to Duty" ceremonies so that the soldiers can take the patches and prayers with them on deployment.

For more information, please contact Erin Cordle at the Office for Social Concerns, 614-241-2540 or email her at ecordle@colsdio.org.

God bless America and God bless our veterans.





If knitting, check gage and knit appropriate number of stitches (usually 8 to 10) and rows (6 to 9 – 1/3 red, 1/3 white, and 1/3 blue) to make a 2 1/4 inch square or rectangle.

Use a crochet slip stitch to add the gold trim.



Crocheting in the Round - Basics For Increasing

- **When crocheting circles (rounds), what can you do to keep your crocheted piece from buckling in the middle?**

Increases in the pattern keep the work lying flat. Most patterns are written with the correct amount of increases and there is no problem. If buckling does occur, however, try adding more (or less, if needed) increases in your rounds until this corrects the problem.

Common Increasing Formula

Increases start on the second round. This example uses double crochet stitches: An increase is made by making 2 dc in a same stitch. On the second round, work 2 dc in every dc around the circle. On round 3, make an increase on every other stitch - in other words, (*dc in next dc, 2 dc in next dc*) around.

As the rounds become wider, there are more stitches in between each increase. (Round 4 has *two* dc stitches between the increases,

while round 5 has *three* dc stitches between the 2 dc in next dc increases. And so on.)



Provided in the *Disability Ministry Toolkit* for the webinar: ***How can we help? Parish Support for Veterans and their Families***, October 18, 2011 by the **National Catholic Partnership on Disability** (NCPD). This document may be freely reprinted. Please credit the author and NCPD. Visit us for more disability ministry ideas at www.ncpd.org.